Bridge, which has been planned in the central portion of the station building. The contract for construction of a new Foot Over Bridge has since been awarded.

Sickness of gang staff

2081. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on an average 25 per cent of "D" category permanent way gang staff, remain on sick lists with man-days lost on this account remain unrecouped;

(b) if so, whether this affects track maintenance and thus the rail safety;

(c) whether his Ministry would take any steps to improve the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The average staff absenteeism on account of sickness is less than 10%.

(b) Rail safety is not affected since provision of 12.5% leave rserve is considered for determining the gang strength.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has already taken some steps and have permitted execution of certain items related to track maintenance/ works through the deployment of contractual agencies to recoup the man days lost on account of absenteeism in the gang.

Besides, staff are regularly counselled by inspecting officials to take-preventice measures to avoid sickness. Regular medical check up, medications, counselling against abuse of alcohol, precaution against sun strokes and severe cold is advised from time to time. Strict disciplinary action is also taken against habitual absentees.

Allocation for Orissa in Rail Budget 2006-07

2082. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Orissa has requested

for allocation of Rs. 800 crores for the State in Rail Budget 2006-07 and also for introduction of new trains in the State;

(b) whether in view of rapid industrialization of the State, there is an urgent need to complete all the ongoing projects to meet needs of both freight and passenger traffic; and

(c) if so, the time-frame within the above proposals are agreed to and the State administration is apprised of the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some of the projects are considered necessary to meet the growing demand of traffic in view of industrial activity in the State. An outlay of over Rs. 650 crore has been proposed during 2006-07 for various ongoing projects falling fully/partly in the State. The State Government is advised of the position from time to time during interaction with the Railways.

Resources for Railways

2083. OR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the need of resources for Railways arid availability of resources;

(b) what is the strategy available for Railways to generate internal resources and the innovative areas for raising additional revenue; and

(c) what are the special efforts undertaken to meet passenger amenities despite lake of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The need of resources for renewal of assets, modernisation and development of the Railways is worked out in the form of Annual Plans and Five Years Plans. The resources are generated through internal generation, budgetary support and market borrowings.

(b) In order to generate additional revenue through internal generation, thrust is being given to optimum utilization of existing capacity and also for creation of additional capacity. The main innovative methods